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United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013

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Contents

Chapter			Page
	Letter of transmittal		v
I.	Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee		1
	A.	Establishment of the Special Committee	1
	B.	Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2013 and election of officers	3
	C.	Organization of work	3
	D.	Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	3
	E.	Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	5
	F.	Consideration of other matters	10
		1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization	10
		2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	10
		3. Pattern of conferences	11
		4. Control and limitation of documentation	11
		5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee	11
		6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee	12
		7. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations	12
		8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	12
		9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly	12
		10. Other questions	13
	G.	Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	13
	H.	Review of work	14
	I.	Future work	14
	J.	Conclusion of the 2013 session	17
II.	Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism		18
III.	Dissemination of information on decolonization		19
IV.	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories		20

V. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories ... 22

VI. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations ... 23

VII. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations ... 24

VIII. Gibraltar and Western Sahara ... 25

A. Gibraltar ... 25

B. Western Sahara ... 25

IX. New Caledonia and French Polynesia ... 26

A. New Caledonia ... 26

B. French Polynesia ... 26

X. American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands ... 27

XI. Tokelau ... 28

XII. Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ... 29

XIII. Recommendations ... 32

Draft resolution I. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations ... 32

Draft resolution II. Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories ... 33

Draft resolution III. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations ... 35

Draft resolution IV. Question of New Caledonia ... 40

Draft resolution V. Question of French Polynesia ... 43

Draft resolution VI. Question of Tokelau ... 45

Draft resolution VII. Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands ... 48

Draft resolution VIII. Dissemination of information on decolonization ... 65

Draft resolution IX. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples ... 67

Annexes

I. List of documents of the Special Committee in 2013 ... 71

II. Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, held in Quito, from 28 to 30 May 2013 ... 74

Letter of transmittal

[30 July 2013]

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/134 of 18 December 2012. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2013.

(*Signed*) Diego **Morejón**
Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I

Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The establishment and history of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is covered in detail in paragraphs 2 to 8 of the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2013/L.1).

2. At its sixty-seventh session, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/67/23), the General Assembly adopted its resolution 67/134, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2012, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) and to carry out the actions approved by the Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories. The Assembly also called upon all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions.

3. In addition to resolution 67/134, the General Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and a decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2012, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[a]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	67/129	18 December 2012
New Caledonia	67/130	18 December 2012
Tokelau	67/131	18 December 2012
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands	67/132 A and B	18 December 2012

[a] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decision

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	67/530	18 December 2012

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	67/125	18 December 2012
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	67/126	18 December 2012
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	67/127	18 December 2012
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	67/128	18 December 2012
Dissemination of information on decolonization	67/133	18 December 2012

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

4. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session that were relevant to the work of the Committee and which it took into consideration were listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2013/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

5. As at 1 January 2013, the Special Committee was composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2013 and election of officers

6. The Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting on 21 February 2013.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:
Diego Morejón (Ecuador)

Vice-Chairs:
Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba)
Shekou M. Touray (Sierra Leone)

Rapporteur:
Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2013, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair, and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. The Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chair relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2). At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.1).

9. Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay participated in the 2013 session of the Special Committee as observers.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

10. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below,

by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

11. The Special Committee held nine meetings at Headquarters during 2013, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 21 February; and 2nd meeting, 1 April;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd meeting, 10 June; 4th meeting, 12 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 17 June; 7th meeting, 18 June; 8th meeting, 20 June; and 9th meeting, 21 June.

12. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	Chap. XIII, draft resolution I
Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories	3rd	Chap. IV, para. 82
Gibraltar	4th	Chap. VIII, para. 104
Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico	6th	Chap. I, para. 26
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VII
Question of Tokelau	9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution VI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8th	Chap. XII
Question of New Caledonia	7th and 9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IV
Question of French Polynesia	9th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution V
Western Sahara	4th	Chap. VIII

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	7th	Chap. XIII, draft resolution IX

2. Subsidiary bodies

13. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2013, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2), and decided to maintain its Bureau as its only subsidiary body. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held four meetings.

14. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee adopted a report on decisions concerning organizational matters relating to its work (A/AC.109/2013/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

15. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

16. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/2013/L.14, para. 9).

Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico

17. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2) and decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

18. At the 3rd and 5th meetings, on 10 and 17 June, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing a wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee.

19. At the 5th meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and the Syrian Arab Republic.

20. At the same meeting, the Chair drew attention to a working paper on the item prepared by the Secretariat, contained in document A/AC.109/2013/L.13, and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.6).

21. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.6. http://undocs.org/A/AC.109/2013/L.6..22. At its 5th meeting, the Special Committee heard the representatives of the following organizations: Ms. Ana Irma Rivera Lassén, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Mr. Héctor Pesquera Sevillana, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano; Mr. Ramón Nenadich, National State of Borinquen; Ms. Ileana E. Cintrón Cruz, Comisión para el Estudio del Estatus y su Impacto en las Políticas Sociales; Mr. Osvaldo Toledo Sr., Comité de Puerto Rico en las Naciones Unidas (COPRONU); Mr. Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos en Acción (PUA); Ms. Carol Sosa Santiago, Coalición Puertorriqueña contra la Pena de Muerte; Mr. Pedro Pierluisi, New Progressive Party; Mr. Gerardo Lugo Segarra, Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico; Mr. Osvaldo Toledo Jr., American Association of Jurists; Mr. Jorge Benítez Nazario, Fundación Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña; Mr. Juan Dalmau, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Mr. Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, El Comité de Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico; Mr. Heriberto Martínez Rivera, Coalición Ecuménica e Interreligiosa de Puerto Rico; Mr. Luis Vega Ramos, PROELA; and Mr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, Movimiento Boricua, Ahora Es!

23. At its 6th meeting, the Special Committee heard from the representatives of the following organizations: Mr. Nelson Rochet-Santoro, Council of Veterans and Soldiers from Puerto Rico; Mr. Jesús Mangual Cruz, La Disapora Puertorriqueña; Mr. Juan Antonio Castillo Ayala, Coordinatora de Solidaridad Diaspora Boricua (COSODIBO); Mr. Francisco R. Jordán García, Coordinadora Nacional de las Actividades del Cerro de los Mártires; Mr. Fernando Laspina, New York Coordinator to Free Political Prisoner Oscar López Rivera; Mr. Miguel A. Reyes Walker, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico-Movimiento Libertador; and Mr. John Ward Llambias, Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico.

24. Also at its 6th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.6 without a vote, and the representative of Cuba made a statement.

25. On the same day, the Special Committee heard from the representatives of the following organizations: Ms. Elda Santiago Perez, Comité de Apoyo a Norberto González Claudio; Mr. Cristobal Berríos Dávila, Acción Civil para el Status de Puerto Rico; Mr. Luis A. Delgado Rodríguez, Alianza pro Libre Asociación Soberana; Ms. Jan Susler, People's Law Office; Mr. José Luis Nieves, Consejo Nacional para la Descolonización; Mr. José Manuel Saldaña, Igualdad; Ms. María de Lourdes Guzmán, Movimiento Unión Soberanista de Puerto Rico; Ms. Mary Anne Grady Flores, Ithaca Catholic Workers, Vieques Support Group; Mr. Joe Umpierre, Frente Autonomista; Ms. María Villeneuve, Boricuas por un Nuevo País; Mr. Ismael Muller Vasquez, Frente Socialista de Puerto Rico; Mr. Ismael Betancourt, Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development; Ms. Wanda Beltrán, Movimiento PR-USA, Organización Civil

Anexionista; Mr. José Enrique Meléndez-Ortiz, League of United Latin American Citizens; Mr. Héctor Bermudez Zenón, Grupo por la Igualdad y la Justicia de Puerto Rico; Mr. Tom Baumann, Socialist Workers Party; and Ms. Clarisa López-Ramos, Hijos de los Presos Políticos Puertorriqueños.

26. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.6 read as follows:

Decision of the Special Committee of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the thirty-one resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2013 marks the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Noting with concern that despite the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, the process of the decolonization of Puerto Rico, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee on Puerto Rico, has not yet been set in motion,

Bearing in mind that the people of Puerto Rico mostly rejected its current status of political subordination on 6 November 2012,

Stressing the urgent need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the Inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its third report on 16 March 2011, reaffirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority,

Taking note of the Declaration adopted at the I Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Santiago, Chile, on 27 and 28 January 2013, in which the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico is highlighted, and note is taken of the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, identifying it as an issue of interest of CELAC,

Also noting the Special Declaration on Puerto Rico adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas in Caracas on 4 and 5 February 2012, whereby they expressed their strong support

for the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and full independence; recalled that Puerto Rico is a Latin American and Caribbean nation with its own unmistakable identity and history, whose rights to sovereignty have been violated by the imposed colonial rule for more than a century; stressed that the cause of the independence of Puerto Rico concerns the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and their forums for dialogue and political cooperation — particularly the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and demanded the release of political prisoners convicted for fighting for the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, including comrade Oscar López Rivera, who has been imprisoned under inhumane conditions for thirty-two years,

Further noting the "Panama Proclamation", adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress in support of Puerto Rico's Independence, which was held in Panama on 18 and 19 November 2006 and was attended by 33 political parties from 22 countries of the region, the conclusions thereof were reaffirmed in the declaration adopted by the Council of the Socialist International in Portugal, on 5 February 2013, expressing support to the repeated and unanimous call of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization for the General Assembly to examine the colonial case of Puerto Rico, and for the release of Oscar López Rivera and other Puerto Rican patriots who are serving sentences in jails in the United States; and satisfaction and solidarity with the overwhelming rejection of the people of Puerto Rico to the continuation of the current colonial status of Puerto Rico is likewise demonstrated,

Noting also the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would enable the launch of the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over 60 years by the United States Marines to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Noting the consensus existing among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of ensuring the clean-up, decontamination and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the territory previously used for military exercises and installations, and of using them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, as well as on the slowness of the process thus far,

Also noting the complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning for clean-up, which exacerbate the existing health problems and pollution and endanger civilian lives,

Further noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners, some of whom have been serving sentences in prisons in the United States of America for more than thirty years for cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence,

Noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against Puerto Rican independence fighters, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Also noting that in the Final Document of the Sixteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,[1] held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 26 to 31 August 2012, and other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and representative testimonies of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico:[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitutes a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls again* upon the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, Governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Again notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, including a constitutional assembly on status with a basis in the decolonization alternatives recognized in international law, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses* serious concern regarding the actions carried out against Puerto Rican independence fighters, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively in all its aspects;

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[1] A/67/506-S/2012/752, annex I.

[2] A/AC.109/2013/L.13.

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to worsen the serious consequences of its military activity for the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Reiterates its request* to the President of the United States of America to release the following Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases relating to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico: Oscar López Rivera, who has been serving a sentence for over thirty years and whose case is of humanitarian character, and Norberto González Claudio, who was arrested most recently;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 18 June 2012;

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report in 2013 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

27. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Special Committee adopted the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2) and decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization; holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters; the pattern of conferences; and other questions, mentioned in paragraphs 28 to 41 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

28. The Special Committee, in its consideration of specific items, took into account the decision mentioned in paragraph 27 above.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

29. Having regard to its programme of work for 2013, the Special Committee, at its 9th meeting, on 21 June, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV), by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting invitations to such meetings as might be received in 2014 and that, when the details of such meetings become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision, in accordance with established procedures.

3. Pattern of conferences

30. Recalling measures that it had taken previously, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference servicing resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements, by circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and realizing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2013 is contained in annex I to the present report.

31. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 67/237. By effectively organizing its programme of work and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had striven to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. Accordingly, it decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2014, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule: (a) plenary: February/March (as required); June/July (up to 8 meetings: 6-8 meetings a week); (b) Bureau (February-July: 10 meetings). It was understood that the programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, early in 2014, review the schedule of meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to maintain efforts to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

32. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50, 39/68, 51/211 B, 66/233 and 67/237. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

33. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, one of the administering Powers, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee.

34. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not formally participate in the 2013 work of the Special Committee.[3]

35. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 3rd meeting, on 10 June, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the

[3] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86 and A/41/23, chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization (see chap. IV).

6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

36. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee at Headquarters should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

7. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

37. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 21 February 2013 (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.1), the Committee would authorize its Chair to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in such meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chair would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who in turn would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chair would also hold consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2014.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

38. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was acknowledged by the Special Committee during the Caribbean regional seminar and at its 9th meeting, on 21 June, in connection with its consideration of the report of the seminar (see chap. II and annex II).

9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

39. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2) and, in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on the practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, the Committee decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly format and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

40. At its 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chair, authorized the Rapporteur to submit directly to the Assembly the report of the Committee, in accordance with established practice and procedure.

10. Other questions

41. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February, the Special Committee adopted suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2) and decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (see para. 3 above). Those resolutions and that decision were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

42. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/127 relating to the item, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Special Committee held consultations to consider appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2013/55). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VI of the present report.

43. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as reflected in the recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII). The Special Committee took into account relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council in 2012 and continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

44. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact on a regular basis with the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum in order to assist it in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of those intergovernmental organizations.

45. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 67/133 and 67/134, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization (see A/AC.109/2013/18 and para. 18 above). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XIII of the present report.

46. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

H. Review of work

47. The reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991 continued to be actively pursued in 2013. The Special Committee's recommendation to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (see chap. XIII, draft resolutions VI and VII).

48. The Special Committee also considered and submitted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

49. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar in Quito, from 28 to 30 May 2013, at which participants considered the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

50. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its sixty-eighth session (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII). The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter, which is set out in paragraph 26 above.

I. Future work

51. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961, and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2014 to pursue its efforts in bringing a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the revised plan of action to be developed within the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments on the political advancement of each Territory, reviewing the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations, seeking the input of representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations from the Territories and experts, inviting them to attend its meetings and regional seminars, and visiting the Territories to gather first-hand information.

52. In 2014, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the cause of decolonization through the development of case-by-case programmes of work for the decolonization of specific Territories, in agreement with the

administering Powers and with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussion. The members of the Special Committee are particularly encouraged by the excellent cooperation between France and New Caledonia and between New Zealand and Tokelau at every stage of the negotiations.

53. The Special Committee will continue to conduct regional seminars for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2014.

54. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information regarding conditions in the Territories and the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Moreover, visiting missions are important in the context of action plans for decolonization and observing acts of self-determination. The Special Committee will explore the possibility of combining visiting missions to certain Territories with regional seminars in order to optimize its available resources. The Special Committee will continue to use opportunities, such as the regional seminars and visiting and special missions to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories, in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the peoples of the Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism, and to develop, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, programmes aimed at Territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

55. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, and vulnerability to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate the sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies.

56. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chair and the President of the Economic and Social Council with the objectives of facilitating the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and fostering cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

57. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated

so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

58. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

59. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2014, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2014, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

60. The Special Committee suggests that when the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2014. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all steps necessary for the implementation of the Declaration and relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request those administering Powers that have not yet done so to become involved with the work of the Special Committee, in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly in the relevant resolutions.

61. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2014. In that regard, the Special Committee notes that the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2014, based on the level of activities approved for 2013, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly, as well as those arising from decisions taken by the Committee itself during the current year.

J. Conclusion of the 2013 session

62. At the 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2013 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.9).

Chapter II

Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

63. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2013, the Special Committee, by approving the recommendations of its Chair on its organization of work for the year (see A/AC.109/2013/L.2), decided to allocate to its plenary meetings, as appropriate, the question of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

64. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013, to consider the goals and expected accomplishments of the Third Decade at its 2nd, 7th and 9th meetings, on 1 April and on 18 and 21 June.

65. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2013/17).

66. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 April, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Caribbean regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.2).

67. At its 7th meeting, on 18 June, the Special Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.9, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", submitted by the Chair.

68. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.9 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IX).

69. At the 9th meeting, on 21 June, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as an informal document.

70. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly (see annex II).

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

71. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2013.

72. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 67/133 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 67/134 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

73. The Special Committee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 3rd meeting (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.3).

74. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2013/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair (A/AC.109/2013/L.4).

75. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.4 without a vote.

76. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.4 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VIII).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

77. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2013.

78. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular the pertinent provisions of resolution 67/134 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolutions 67/132 and 67/131 relating to specific Territories.

79. In addition, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 67/133 and 67/134, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

80. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 June, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.5).

81. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.5 without a vote.

82. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.5 read as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[4]

Recalling with satisfaction the dispatch of two United Nations missions to observe the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007, at the invitation of New Zealand as the administering Power,[5]

[4] See resolution 65/119.

[5] See A/AC.109/2006/20 and A/AC.109/2007/19.

Recalling with satisfaction also the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in facilitating the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006[6] at the request of the territorial Government,

Recalling the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Governments of American Samoa and of Anguilla for a visiting mission by the Special Committee,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[4]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

[6] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

83. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 7th meeting, on 18 June 2013.

84. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including in particular resolution 67/126 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and resolution 67/134 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In addition, the Special Committee took into consideration relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.11.

85. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.11).

86. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.11 without a vote.

87. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.11 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

88. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 7th meeting, on 18 June 2013.

89. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/127 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 65/119, by which the Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

90. The Special Committee also took into account relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.10.

91. At the 7th meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/68/62) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2013/55), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.10).

92. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.10, without a vote.

93. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.10 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

94. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2013.

95. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 67/125, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 67/134 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 65/119 on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

96. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/68/64 and Add.1), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.3).

97. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.3, without a vote.

98. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.3 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar and Western Sahara

99. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolution 67/129 and decision 67/530, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

100. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 4th meeting, on 12 June 2013.

101. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2013/15).

102. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.5).

103. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, statements were made by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Fabian Picardo, and the representative of the Self-Determination for Gibraltar Group, Denis Mathews (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.5).

104. On the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-eighth session and, to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

B. Western Sahara

105. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 4th meeting, on 12 June 2013.

106. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2013/1).

107. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Nicaragua.

108. Also at the 4th meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Ahmed Boukhari of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), who made a statement (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.4).

109. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-eighth session, and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX
New Caledonia and French Polynesia

110. In its consideration of the questions of New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 67/130 and 67/265, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. New Caledonia

111. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 7th and 9th meetings on 18 and 21 June.

112. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2013/16).

113. At its 7th meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.7).

114. At the 9th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.12).

115. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.12, which the Committee proceeded to adopt without a vote.

116. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.12 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution IV).

B. French Polynesia

117. The Special Committee considered the question of French Polynesia at its 9th meeting, on 21 June 2013, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/265.

118. At the 9th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a request for hearing by a representative of the Union pour la démocratie (UPLD), Richard Ariihau Tuheiava, who made a statement (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.9).

119. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile made a statement.

120. On the same day, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.16).

121. Also at the 9th, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.16.

122. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.16 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution V).

Chapter X

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

123. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 7th meeting, on 18 June 2013.

124. In considering the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 67/134 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

125. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

126. For its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2013/3-13).

127. At the 7th meeting, the Chair made a statement introducing a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2013/L.8) relating to the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.7).

128. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.8 without a vote.

129. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.8 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter XI
Tokelau

130. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 9th meeting, on 21 June 2013. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2013/2).

131. At the 9th meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.9). Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.15).

132. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea, also on behalf of Fiji, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.15.

133. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.15 without a vote. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.15 appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XIII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter XII
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

134. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 8th and 9th meetings, on 20 and 21 June 2013. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

135. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2013/14).

136. At the 8th meeting, on 20 June, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, Spain, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Committee's work at the current session. The Committee decided to accede to those requests.

137. At the same meeting, in accordance with the decision taken at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by Sharon Halford and Michael Summers of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, and by Alejandro Betts and Maria Angélica del Carmen Vernet (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.8).

138. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Chile, also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2013/L.7), and the Foreign Minister of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2013/SR.8).

139. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.7 without a vote.

140. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba (on behalf of the Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC)), the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Ecuador, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua, China, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Peru (on behalf of the Unión de Naciones Suramericanos (UNASUR)), Guatemala, Costa Rica and Brazil. The Foreign Minister of Argentina made a further statement.

141. At the 9th meeting, on 21 June, statements were made by the representatives of Uruguay, Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Angola and Papua New Guinea.

142. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2013/L.7 reads as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002, A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2007, the resolution adopted on 12 June 2008, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2009, the resolution adopted on 24 June 2010, the resolution adopted on 21 June 2011 and the resolution adopted on 14 June 2012, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of

the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and the Special Committee meeting of 14 June 2012;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates* its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XIII
Recommendations

143. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 67/125 of 18 December 2012, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[7]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

[7] A/68/64 and Add.1.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to the item,[8]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991, 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and 65/119 of 10 December 2010,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. V.

accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Territories, especially during times of economic and financial crisis;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples

of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[9] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[10] on the item,

[9] A/68/62.
[10] E/2013/55.

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to the item,[11]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolutions 2011/40 of 28 July 2011 and 2012/22 of 26 July 2012,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming also the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social spheres, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

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[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. VI.

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/127 of 18 December 2012 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special

Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as an important element for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), including possible participation at the regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

11. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

12. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

13. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[12] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), sect. III.G.

the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

14. *Requests* the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Recalls* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization, and requests its continued updating and wide dissemination;

16. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

18. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

19. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

21. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and

activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

22. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the measures necessary to implement it, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to New Caledonia,[13]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Recalling the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session, held from 12 to 30 September and on 21 October 2011,[14] following his visit to the Territory in February 2011,

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[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. IX.

[14] A/HRC/18/35/Add.6, annex.

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

Recalling, in this regard, the conclusions of the eighteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders Summit, held in Suva on 31 March 2011, in particular the recommendations for the annual monitoring and assessment of the Nouméa Accord,[15]

Welcoming the exchange of letters between the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat on the sharing of information on New Caledonia,

1. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord,[15] which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

2. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony, and, in this context, welcomes again the unanimous agreement, reached in Paris on 8 December 2008, on the transfer of powers to New Caledonia in 2009;

3. *Notes* that, at its tenth meeting, held on 6 December 2012, the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord approved the programme of work for 2013 of the steering committee on the institutional future of New Caledonia, which covered sovereign powers and the legal framework for the final phase of the Nouméa Accord, and requested the mission responsible for considering the institutional future of New Caledonia to create model simulations of the various major hypotheses for the institutional future of New Caledonia and to map the exercise of sovereign powers according to the major options that could be envisaged depending on the outcome of the referendum held pursuant to the Nouméa Accord;

4. *Also notes* that, at the tenth meeting of the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord, participants expressed the view that greater support from the administering Power was needed, especially in areas that were both essential and highly technical, and that, to that end, an interministerial standing committee was established;

5. *Further notes* that, at its tenth meeting, the Committee of Signatories of the Nouméa Accord, inter alia:

(a) Decided to establish a working group within the steering committee to assess progress under the Nouméa Accord, in order to reflect on ways to reconcile realignment among provinces, economic development, infrastructure levels and geographical distribution of the population, and that the outcome of the deliberations of the working group would be presented in September 2013;

(b) Welcomed the conclusion of the analysis and discussion relating to the development of an industrial strategic framework and the nickel industry during the meeting of the industrial strategic committee held on 21 November 2012;

[15] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

(c) Noted the concern expressed regarding security problems in the Territory, and took note of the pledge made by the administering Power to focus on ensuring an adequate presence of public security forces, strengthening the recruitment of New Caledonians and supporting initiatives by the institutions of the Territory relating to crime prevention and social cohesion;

(d) Urged all stakeholders to implement the recommendations made in the assessment report on the "Cadres for the Future" programme, with a view to redressing the geographical imbalance and implementing a strategic shift designed to ensure training to fill the posts created as a result of the transfer of powers, as well as senior posts in the private sector;

6. *Takes note* of the decision to present and implement, in 2013, concrete measures to ensure significant progress in the representation of New Caledonians, especially Kanaks, in the performance of the sovereign functions of the State civil service;

7. *Also takes note* of the information presented to the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar, held in Quito from 28 to 30 May, to the effect that preparations for the referendum on self-determination to be held between 2014 and 2018, namely, the completion and review of the electoral rolls constituting the special electorates, were currently under way;

8. *Notes*, in this regard, the concern expressed by members of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples participating in the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar regarding the problems recently encountered in the electoral review process;

9. *Reaffirms* its resolution 67/125 of 18 December 2012, in which, inter alia, the General Assembly reaffirmed that, in the absence of a decision by the Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

10. *Recalls* the continuing concerns expressed by the Kanak people regarding their underrepresentation in governmental and social structures, incessant migratory flows and the impact of mining on the environment;

11. *Also recalls* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples on the situation of Kanak people in New Caledonia,[14] made in the light of relevant international standards, to assist with ongoing efforts to advance the rights of the Kanak people in the context of the implementation of the Nouméa Accord and the United Nations-supported decolonization process;

12. *Notes* the financial assistance rendered by the Government of France to the Territory in such areas as health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding of development schemes;

13. *Also notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, including the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

14. *Welcomes* the cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during successive France-Oceania Summits;

15. *Recalls* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, and notes the continuing strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and both the European Union and the European Development Fund;

16. *Notes* the second visit to New Caledonia, conducted from 13 to 18 August 2012, by the Melanesian Spearhead Group High-level/Ministerial Mission;

17. *Welcomes* the decision of the Melanesian Spearhead Group to appoint the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste as its next Chair and the opening, in February 2013, of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste Unit at the headquarters of the Group secretariat in Port Vila;

18. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

19. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

20. *Also welcomes* the appointment, in April 2012, of the first delegate for New Caledonia at the Embassy of France in New Zealand, in accordance with the convention, signed on 26 January 2012, relating to the hosting of New Caledonian delegates in the French diplomatic and consular missions in the Pacific region;

21. *Further welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

22. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories to the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

23. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

24. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution V
Question of French Polynesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of French Polynesia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to French Polynesia,[16]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with all relevant resolutions, including its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Recalling its resolution 67/265 of 17 May 2013, entitled "Self-determination of French Polynesia", in which the General Assembly affirmed the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter and its resolution 1514 (XV), recognized that French Polynesia remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter and declared that an obligation exists under Article 73 *e* of the Charter on the part of the Government of France, as the administering Power of the Territory, to transmit information on French Polynesia,

Expressing concern that fifty-three years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[17] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, on a case-by-case basis and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Recognizing also that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, on a case-by-case basis,

Conscious of the responsibility of the administering Power to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in respect of French Polynesia,

Mindful that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, on a case-by-case basis, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Territories,

Recognizing the significant health and environmental impacts of nuclear testing conducted by the administering Power in the Territory over a thirty-year period, and further recognizing the concerns in the Territory related to the consequences of those activities on the lives and health of the people, especially children and vulnerable groups, as well as the environment of the region,

Recognizing also the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

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[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23).

[17] Resolution 1514 (XV).

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of French Polynesia to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territory in order to foster an awareness among the people of French Polynesia of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in French Polynesia, and encourages the administering Power to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territory;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of France to intensify its dialogue with French Polynesia in order to facilitate rapid progress towards a fair and effective self-determination process, under which the terms and timelines for an act of self-determination would be agreed;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations, to compile a report on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts as a consequence of the thirty-year period of nuclear testing in the Territory;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to Tokelau,[18]

[18] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. XI.

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 67/131 of 18 December 2012,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Noting also with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Noting also the status of Tokelau as an associate member of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed on 21 November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out the rights and responsibilities of the two partners,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold in February 2006 a referendum on self-determination on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a draft treaty of free association with New Zealand, and its subsequent decision to hold a further referendum in October 2007, and that the two referendums did not produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change the status of Tokelau from that of a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand,

1. *Acknowledges* the decision of the General Fono in 2008 that consideration of any future act of self-determination by Tokelau will be deferred and that New Zealand and Tokelau will devote renewed effort and attention to ensuring that essential services and infrastructure on the atolls of Tokelau are enhanced and strengthened, thereby ensuring an enhanced quality of life for the people of Tokelau;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils) since 2004, and notes that further discussion is planned on the recommendations of the report on the devolution review, compiled in 2012;

3. *Notes* that Tokelau and New Zealand remain firmly committed to the ongoing development of Tokelau for the long-term benefit of the people of Tokelau, with particular emphasis on the further development of facilities on each atoll that meet their current requirements;

4. *Acknowledges* the adoption by Tokelau of its National Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and that the joint commitment for development between Tokelau and

New Zealand 2011-2015 will focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, human resources capacity and the strengthening of governance;

5. *Also acknowledges* the ongoing and consistent commitment of New Zealand to meeting the social and economic requirements of the people of Tokelau, including the completion of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project and a new shipping charter service, as well as the support and cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization;

6. *Further acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support from the international community and Tokelau's desire to be able to gain access to resources from international organizations, such as the Global Environment Facility, and for active membership in such organizations as the Alliance of Small Island States and the International Renewable Energy Agency, in line with General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV);

7. *Recalls with satisfaction* the establishment and operation of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the ongoing needs of Tokelau, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to contribute to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to Tokelau in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

8. *Welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau and their support for its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

9. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops;

10. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau;

11. *Also welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to continue to work together in the interests of Tokelau and its people;

12. *Commends* the completion of the first phase of the Tokelau Renewable Energy Project with the support of the administering Power;

13. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution VII
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013,[19]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolutions,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that 53 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[20] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2020 and the plans of action for the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism,[21]

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the aspirations of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options for self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

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[19] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. X.

[20] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[21] A/56/61, annex, and resolution 65/119.

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the auspices of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services and tourism sectors for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time, in consultation with the relevant administering Powers and in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the relevant administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Acknowledging the regular transmission by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General of information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Committee,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options for self-determination,

Mindful, in that connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Noting the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and at its regional seminars,

Welcoming the 2013 Caribbean regional seminar held by the Special Committee in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013, as a significant and forward-looking event, which enabled the participants to assess the progress made in the decolonization process and to review the Committee's existing working methods and renew its momentum in implementing its historic task,

Recognizing the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the seminar, which are annexed to the report of the Special Committee[22] and which outline the findings of the seminar, including, especially, the way forward for the decolonization process within the context of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2011-2020 as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and in that connection bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action or outcome documents of all United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social spheres,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Kingstown from 31 May to 2 June 2011 that all six Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are active associate members of the Commission,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[23] reviews the status of the

[22] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23).

[23] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

Recognizing that the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[24] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs to update the present resolutions,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[25]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

5. *Requests* the administering Powers to continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of the provisions under Article 73 *b* of the

[24] A/AC.109/2013/1-16.

[25] A/65/330 and Add.1.

Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and, as a priority, to mitigate the effects of the current global financial crisis where possible, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, towards the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all measures necessary to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories and to provide assistance to those Territories, consistent with their prevailing rules of procedure;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

10. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plans of action for the Second[21] and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the context of the International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the various constitutional exercises in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements, and decides to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

14. *Reiterates* its request that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[23] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Human Rights Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to collaborate with the Economic and Social Council and its relevant subsidiary intergovernmental bodies,

within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B
Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I
American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[26] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the Pacific regional seminar held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012 that the Territory's position that it should be removed from the United Nations list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories continued to hold, that it was time to make political and economic progress while respecting the concerns of the administering Power and the United Nations, and that there was a need for a more structured approach to determine the will of the people with a detailed workplan on how best to gauge the will of the people on political status,

Aware that, under United States law, the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[27]

Recalling the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa at regional seminars, including at the 2011 Caribbean regional seminar, inviting the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

Aware of the work of the Future Political Status Study Commission, completed in 2006, the release of its report, with recommendations, in January 2007 and the creation of the American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee in the Territory, as well as the holding in June 2010 of American Samoa's fourth Constitutional Convention,

Noting, in that regard, the statement made by the representative of the Governor of American Samoa at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar and previous policy papers presented to the Special Committee stating that, against a backdrop of a decades-long popular preference for integration with the United States of America, the Territory wished to move forward on political status, local autonomy and self-

[26] A/AC.109/2013/11.

[27] United States Congress, 1929 (48 U.S.C. Sec. 1661, 45 Stat. 1253), and Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America, 1951, as amended.

governance issues, as well as remarks made by the Governor and the United States Congressman representing American Samoa, in 2012, on the issue of reviewing the relationship of the Territory with the United States and looking at options to become more independent, including a compact of free association agreement,

Noting the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2012,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government, including at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, that the effects of certain federal laws on the economy of the Territory give serious cause for concern,

Aware that in July 2012, the United States House of Representatives passed the Insular Areas Act of 2011, which includes a provision to delay the minimum wage increases in American Samoa, as provided by Public Law 110-28, until September 2015,

Aware that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward on political status, local autonomy and self-governance issues with a view to making political and economic progress;

2. *Expresses once again its appreciation* for the invitation extended in 2011 by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the steps necessary to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the diversification and sustainability of the economy of the Territory and to address employment and cost-of-living issues;

II
Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[28] and other relevant information,

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, hosted by the territorial Government and made possible by the administering Power, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Recalling also the statement made by the representative of Anguilla at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012, that the people of the Territory are concerned that they are being denied the full range of

[28] A/AC.109/2013/5.

decolonization options while the territorial Government seeks a comprehensive overhaul of the current Constitution, in particular a serious reduction in the powers of the Governor under a drafting exercise that began in 2011,

Aware of the follow-up meeting, held after the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, between the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Chief Minister of Anguilla, who reiterated the urgent need for a visiting mission,

Noting the internal constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power, and the decisions taken in 2008 and 2011 to set up a drafting team to prepare a new constitution and present it for public consultation in the Territory,

Aware of certain difficulties and tensions in the relations between the territorial Government and the administering Power regarding budgetary and economic matters,

Noting the participation of the Territory as a member in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council and an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Aware of the willingness expressed by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community to assist in the resolution of difficulties being experienced by the territorial Government in respect of its relations with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. *Welcomes* the preparations made for a new constitution, and urges that constitutional discussions with the administering Power, including public consultations, be concluded as soon as possible;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in its current efforts with regard to advancing the internal constitutional review exercise, if requested;

3. *Notes* the expression of grave concern by the Caribbean Community at the tension between the administering Power and the territorial Government and the deterioration in the Territory's governance arrangements;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chair of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in strengthening its commitments in the economic domain, including budgetary matters, with regional support as needed and appropriate;

7. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

III
Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[29] and other relevant information,

Aware of the statement made by the representative of Bermuda at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Quito from 30 May to 1 June 2012,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory, and noting the results of successive surveys by local media, according to which a majority of respondents did not wish to sever ties with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power, and a minority was in favour of independence,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of Bermuda's associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough examination of the facts surrounding independence, and continues to regret that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public educational outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the entry of Bermuda as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012;

[29] A/AC.109/2013/6.

IV
British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[30] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the British Virgin Islands at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013, that while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power was stable and not problematic, it could be enhanced,

Aware of the negative impact of the global economic slowdown on the growth of the financial and tourism services sectors of the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2007 Constitution of the British Virgin Islands, and stresses the importance of continued discussions on constitutional matters, to accord greater responsibility to the territorial Government for the effective implementation of the Constitution and increased levels of education relating to constitutional matters;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the holding, in 2012, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the United States Virgin Islands;

V
Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[31] and other relevant information,

Conscious of the statement made by the representative of the territorial Government at the 2010 Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa,

Aware of the work, in accordance with the 2009 Constitution, of the new Constitutional Commission, which serves as an advisory body on constitutional matters,

Acknowledging that, in spite of the global economic downturn and unemployment issues, the financial services and stay-over tourism industries of the Territory reportedly grew in 2012, indicating a mild economic recovery, and recognizing the establishment of the Territory's first special economic zone,

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[30] A/AC.109/2013/9.

[31] A/AC.109/2013/8.

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

1. *Recalls* the 2009 Constitution of the Cayman Islands, and stresses the importance of the work of the Constitutional Commission, including its work on human rights education;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to implement financial sector management policies, medical and sports tourism initiatives and unemployment alleviation programmes in various economic sectors, including through the establishment of special economic zones, economic diversification, and job and investment opportunities;

VI
Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[32] and other relevant information,

Noting the statement made by the representative of the Governor of Guam at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013, presenting an update on Guam's efforts towards decolonization and the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in reinforcing public awareness in order to address the limited and distorted understanding of decolonization, finding creative ways to raise funds for the education programme and completing three task force position papers so that they are easy for voters to compare, contrast and understand,

Cognizant of the efforts made by the Guam Commission on Decolonization to populate the decolonization registry, as required by public law, and to enhance the ability to expediently register those who have not yet been registered,

Aware that, under United States law, the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters that are not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[33]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

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[32] A/AC.109/2013/13.

[33] United States Congress, Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended.

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory, including at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar, that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act ended in 1997 and that Guam has subsequently established a non-binding plebiscite process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant of the importance of the administering Power continuing to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Aware of the deep concern expressed by civil society and other parties regarding the potential social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the planned transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory, and that the public assessment for the supplemental environmental impact statement was completed in 2012,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination and its work on a self-determination vote, as well as public education efforts;

2. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and

enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

VII
Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[34] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the Premier of Montserrat at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar held in Quito that the current relationship with the administering Power was one made by free choice and that the Territory should be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling also the statements made by the members of the Special Committee present at the 2012 Pacific regional seminar and the clarification made by the Secretariat regarding United Nations procedures in that regard,

Taking note of the communication addressed to the Chair of the Special Committee by the opposition leader of Montserrat expressing concern that the Premier had no prior discussion with the legislature of Montserrat over the content of his statement before requesting the Special Committee to remove the Territory from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the approval of a new Constitution in 2010 and the work of the territorial Government to update the relevant parts of the legislation of the Territory so that the Constitution could enter into force in 2011,

Aware that Montserrat continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling the statements made by participants at the Pacific regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the special needs of the Territory,

Noting with concern the continuing consequences of the 1995 volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the population of the Territory to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continuing assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory and of the Territory's membership in the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council,

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[34] A/AC.109/2013/4.

1. *Recalls* the 2011 Constitution of Montserrat and the work of the territorial Government with respect to moving forward to consolidate the gains provided for in the Constitution;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Welcomes* the Territory's participation in the 2012 inauguration of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Assembly, its steps towards accession to the economic union treaty of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and its active participation in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII
Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[35] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Pitcairn in terms of population, area and access,

Aware that the administering Power and the territorial Government have implemented a new governance structure to strengthen administrative capacity in the Territory, based on consultations with the people of the Territory, and that Pitcairn continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Recalling that the administering Power and the Pitcairn Government are currently working on a five-year strategic development plan for the island,

1. *Welcomes* all efforts by the administering Power and the territorial Government that would further devolve operational responsibilities to the Territory, with a view to gradually expanding self-government, including through training of local personnel;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the territorial Government on how best to support socioeconomic and environmental security in Pitcairn;

[35] A/AC.109/2013/3.

4. *Welcomes* the work carried out on the preparation of a five-year strategic development plan for the island;

IX
Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[36] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of Saint Helena at the Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, from 12 to 14 May 2009,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena in terms of its population, geography and natural resources,

Taking note of the fact that, in January 2013, following a resolution passed in September 2012 by the Legislative Council to undertake minor adjustments to the Constitution of Saint Helena of 2009 in order to provide improvements to section 36 (Election of Elected Members of Executive Council) and section 69 (Public Accounts Committee), a public consultation process was launched,

Aware of the proclamation dissolving the Legislative Council on 19 April 2013 and that a general election must be held no later than 19 July 2013,

Cognizant that Saint Helena continues to receive budgetary aid from the administering Power for the operation of the territorial Government,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the areas of employment, and transport and communications infrastructure,

Noting the efforts of the Territory to address Saint Helena's demands on its labour market over the next ten years, including through the Labour Market Strategy for the period 2012-2014, the Sustainable Economic Development Plan 2012/13-2021/22 and the new national strategy for the development of statistics,

Noting also the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena and, in that regard, the administering Power's approval of the building of an airport on the island of Saint Helena,

1. *Stresses* the importance of the Territory's 2009 Constitution, and takes note of proposals to promote the further development of democratic and good governance;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the Territory's socioeconomic development challenges;

[36] A/AC.109/2013/7.

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into account the unique geographical character of Saint Helena while resolving any emerging issues related to the construction of the airport;

X
Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[37] and other relevant information,

Recalling the statement made by the representative of the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2009 Caribbean regional seminar held in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts and Nevis,

Recalling also the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power,

Aware of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, and acknowledging the 2006 Constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands agreed upon between the administering Power and the territorial Government,

Noting the decision of the administering Power to suspend parts of the 2006 Constitution, the subsequent presentation of a draft constitution for public consultation in 2011 and the introduction of a new constitution for the Territory, as well as the election of a new territorial Government in November 2012,

Acknowledging the impact that the global economic slowdown and other relevant developments have had on tourism and related real estate development, the mainstays of the economy of the Territory,

1. *Notes with grave concern* the ongoing situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and notes the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance, including through the introduction in 2011 of a new constitution and the holding of elections in November 2012, and sound financial management in the Territory;

2. *Notes* the positions and repeated calls of the Caribbean Community and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in support of a democratically elected territorial Government;

3. *Also notes* the extensive public consultations undertaken by the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser and the continuing debate on constitutional and electoral reform within the Territory, and stresses the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process;

4. *Stresses* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of the people of the Territory, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation;

5. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

[37] A/AC.109/2013/12.

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the territorial Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of socioeconomic development across the Territory;

XI
United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[38] and other relevant information,

Aware that under United States law the relations between the territorial Government and the federal Government in all matters not the programme responsibility of another federal department or agency are under the general administrative supervision of the Secretary of the Interior,[39]

Aware also of the fifth attempt of the Territory to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes its internal governance arrangements, as well as its requests to the administering Power and the United Nations system for assistance to its public education programme,

Cognizant that a draft constitution was proposed in 2009 and subsequently forwarded to the administering Power, which in 2010 requested the Territory to consider its objections to the draft constitution,

Cognizant also that the Fifth Revision Convention, established and convened in 2012, was mandated to ratify and approve the final revised draft constitution,

Noting the holding of elections in the Territory in November 2012,

Recalling the closing of the Hovensa plant in 2011 and the continuing negative impact on manufacturing and the labour situation in the Territory,

Cognizant of the potential usefulness of regional ties for the development of a small island Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal of a draft constitution emanating from the Territory in 2009, as a result of the work of the United States Virgin Islands Fifth Constitutional Convention, for review by the administering Power, and requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular the successful conclusion of the ongoing internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to facilitate the process for approval of the proposed territorial constitution in the United States Congress and its implementation, once agreed upon in the Territory;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard, calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested;

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[38] A/AC.109/2013/10.

[39] United States Congress, Revised Organic Act, 1954.

4. *Expresses its concern* regarding the continuing negative impact of the Hovensa plant closure;

5. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Welcomes* the active participation of the Territory in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

7. *Also welcomes* the holding, in 2012, of the meeting of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the Territory and the British Virgin Islands.

Draft resolution VIII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013 relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[40]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 67/133 of 18 December 2012,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through the United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

Recalling the issuance by the Department of Public Information, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

[40] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23), chap. III.

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, and recalls with satisfaction the publication, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", which was updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in May 2009, and encourages continued updating and wide dissemination of the information leaflet;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options for self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, to this end requests the Department of Public Information, through the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions, to actively engage and seek new and innovative ways to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website and to continue to include the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore further the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help to improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution IX
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2013,[41]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 67/134 of 18 December 2012, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2011,

Regretting that measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, have not been successful,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the continued efforts of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation and active participation of certain administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

[41] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/68/23).

Noting that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013,

1. ***Reaffirms*** its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 65/119, by which it declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all steps necessary to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. ***Reaffirms once again*** that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[42]

3. ***Reaffirms its determination*** to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. ***Affirms once again its support*** for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. ***Calls upon*** the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, as soon as possible, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. ***Recalls with satisfaction*** the professional, open and transparent conduct of both the February 2006 and the October 2007 referendums to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations;

7. ***Requests*** the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second and Third International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General

[42] Resolution 217 A (III).

Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[43]

8. *Recalls* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[44] updated as necessary, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the relevant administering Power to take all steps necessary to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

[43] See resolution 54/91.

[44] A/56/61, annex.

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance, as needed, to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

14. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

15. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in its future sessions;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2013, including the programme of work envisaged for 2014;[41]

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

Annex I

List of documents of the Special Committee in 2013

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2013/1	Western Sahara (working paper)	11 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/2	Tokelau (working paper)	11 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/3	Pitcairn (working paper)	11 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/4	Montserrat (working paper)	12 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/5	Anguilla (working paper)	14 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/6	Bermuda (working paper)	19 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/7	Saint Helena (working paper)	22 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/8	Cayman Islands (working paper)	25 February 2013
A/AC.109/2013/9	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	1 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/10	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	4 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/11	American Samoa (working paper)	6 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/12	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	8 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/13	Guam (working paper)	12 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/14	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	18 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/15	Gibraltar (working paper)	15 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/16	New Caledonia (working paper)	28 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/17	Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends — Guidelines and rules of procedure	22 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2012 to March 2013: report of the Secretary-General	24 May 2013

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2013/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	27 December 2012
A/AC.109/2013/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	27 December 2012
A/AC.109/2013/L.3	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	4 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	4 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.5	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	4 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.6	Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	11 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.7	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	14 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.8	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2013

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2013/L.11	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	11 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.12	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Papua New Guinea	18 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.13	Special Committee decision of 18 June 2012 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	19 March 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.14	Report of the Special Committee on decisions concerning organizational matters	18 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	18 June 2013
A/AC.109/2013/L.16	Question of French Polynesia: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	20 June 2013

Annex II

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/119, the General Assembly declared the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism[a] and to cooperate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third Decade.

2. In its resolution 67/134, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee envisaged for 2013, which included the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The purpose of the seminar was to enable the Special Committee to obtain the views of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, members of civil society and other stakeholders in the process of decolonization, who can assist the Special Committee in identifying policy approaches and practical ways that can be pursued in the United Nations decolonization process. The discussions at the seminar would assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, as well as the ways in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories.

4. The seminar was also aimed at a first quarter review of developments and trends with regard to the implementation of the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as expected accomplishments of the Special Committee during the Decade.

5. The respective contributions of the participants would be further considered by the Special Committee at its substantive session, to be held in New York in June 2013, with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Third Decade.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Quito from 28 to 30 May, 2013. It held five meetings, in which the representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers and non-governmental organizations,

[a] A/56/61, annex.

as well as experts took part (see appendix II). The seminar was organized in such a way as to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

7. The seminar was conducted by Diego Morejón, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Committee: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, and United Republic of Tanzania. Three administering powers, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, participated as observers. Other Member States participating as observers were Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Spain.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 28 May 2013, Namita Khatri (Fiji) and Anna M. Evstigneeva (Russian Federation) were appointed Vice-Chairs of the seminar. José Antonio Cousiño (Chile) was appointed Rapporteur. The Chair established an informal drafting Group and appointed the Rapporteur as its facilitator.

9. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review — the role of the Special Committee:
   (a) Assessing prospects for advancing the decolonization process;
   (b) Fresh options for communication and cooperation on a case-by-case basis among the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (c) Synergies and partnerships in moving the decolonization process forward.
2. Third International Decade: first quarter review — views of the administering Powers and territorial Governments as well as of experts and civil society:
   (a) Caribbean region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (b) Pacific region's Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   (c) Other regions' Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. The role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Third International Decade: first quarter review — recommendations.

III. Proceedings of the seminar

A. Opening of the seminar

10. On 28 May 2013, Diego Morejón (Ecuador) opened the seminar in his capacity as Chair, and acknowledged the annual Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

11. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, addressed the seminar.

12. Also at the same meeting, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Quito, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix I).

B. Statements and discussion[b]

13. At the 1st meeting, on 28 May, the Chair made a statement. The representatives of the British Virgin Islands, Western Sahara and Argentina also made statements, as did two experts.

14. At the 2nd meeting, in 28 May, statements were made by Salesio Lui (Tokelau) and Edward Alvarez (Guam), and by the representatives of New Zealand and Fiji.

15. At the same meeting, presentations were made by two experts: Peter Clegg (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), and the seminar heard statements from the representatives of Cuba and Chile. Further statements were made by three experts: Richard Ariihau Tuheiava (French Polynesia), Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine) and Alejandro Betts (Argentina). A statement was also made by the representative of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).[c]

16. At the 3rd meeting, on 29 May 2013, the seminar heard further presentations by four experts, including Stephanie Graff, through a Skype connection (on behalf of Roch Wamytan, New Caledonia), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (Guam), Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine) and Richard Ariihau Tuheiava (French Polynesia). Statements were made by the representatives of Fiji, Cuba and Russian Federation. An expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), also made a statement.

17. Also at the 3rd meeting, the seminar heard further statements by the representatives of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[c] Gibraltar and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario). It also heard a presentation by an expert, Alejandro Betts (Argentina).

18. At the 4th meeting, on 29 May 2013, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, China, Brazil and Ecuador. The representatives of Morocco, the Frente Polisario, Algeria and Gibraltar made statements in the exercise of the right of reply. An expert, Wilma Reveron-Collazo (Puerto Rico), and the representative of Fiji made further statements.

19. At the 5th meeting, on 30 May, the members of the Committee present at the seminar held informal consultations on the draft conclusions and recommendations of the seminar.

C. Closing of the seminar

20. Also at the 5th meeting, on 30 May, the Rapporteur presented the draft report of the seminar.

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[b] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available on the United Nations decolonization website, www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

[c] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falklands Islands (Malvinas).

21. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a draft resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Ecuador (see appendix III).

22. Also at the same meeting, the Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs of Ecuador, Mauricio Montalvo, made closing remarks. The Chairman of the Special Committee also made a closing statement.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

23. Members of the Special Committee participating in the seminar recalled the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the role of the Special Committee to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress in and extent of the implementation of the Declaration, and to report to the General Assembly.

24. Participating members reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the conclusions and recommendations of the previous seminars.

25. In addition, pursuant to rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the seminar (A/AC.109/2013/17, annex), participating members present the conclusions and recommendations set out below to the Special Committee at its substantive session.

A. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, and assessment of the decolonization process, including current realities and prospects in the Third Decade

26. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Noted that the period 2011-2020 was proclaimed by the General Assembly as the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Participants assessed the progress achieved, reviewed existing methods of work and garnered renewed momentum with a view to completing the Special Committee's historic task;

(b) Identified a number of issues in the process of decolonization during the Third Decade, including the impact of climate change, especially in Non-Self-Governing Territories, the global economic and financial crisis, the role of regional cooperation, education and public awareness, the role of civil society, the role of women, the empowerment of vulnerable people, and the capacity for full self governance;

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of many of the challenges faced by some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dynamics of today's interconnected world, underlined that efforts must be made, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders and on a case-by-case basis, for the continued strengthening of administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which would allow the Territories to address the cross-cutting issues in a holistic manner;

(d) Acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability, and that the ongoing global economic and financial crisis had highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability and diversification of the economic base in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Recognized the important role played by regional organizations and regional arrangements in assisting many Non-Self-Governing Territories in coping with various emerging challenges;

(f) Underlined that education and public awareness, including of the indigenous people, remain crucial elements for decolonization and, in this connection, recalled the responsibility of the administering Powers to ensure that the peoples concerned would be in a position to make an informed decision regarding their Territories' future political status in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(g) Welcomed calls for joint projects for the enhancement of public education about the nature of the constitutional relationship in some Territories involving the United Nations, the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(h) Stressed the important role of women in the process of decolonization, including in education, poverty eradication and community empowerment;

(i) Recognized the role of and the need for increased dialogue with the civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(j) Recognized the role of civil society, including the business community and non-governmental organizations, in the development process and in facilitating the achievement of economic sustainability and the well-being of the peoples in the Territories;

(k) Underlined the fact that status-related and/or constitutional review exercises in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were delicate processes that should meet certain expectations towards accomplishing their decolonization, on a case-by-case basis and where appropriate, including through informal, working-level communication and dialogue among all concerned;

(l) Reiterated that enhanced interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers remain crucial to the implementation of the United Nations decolonization mandate and would be beneficial to all stakeholders, including the administering Powers themselves, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/134 and all other relevant resolutions, and in this connection welcomed the participation of New Zealand, the United States of America and the United Kingdom at the seminar;

(m) Recognized also the importance of active engagement from other States Members of the United Nations which are not members of the Special Committee in the work of the Committee, and in that connection welcomed the participation of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Spain in the seminar.

B. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, and assessment of the decolonization process in the Caribbean, including follow-up to the 2012 Pacific regional seminar

27. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Welcomed the participation in the Caribbean regional seminar of the representative of British Virgin Islands, and the information provided as well as the participation of experts and civil society representatives, who shared their views on the process of decolonization in the Caribbean region, in particular on the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee on all Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the colonial situation in Puerto Rico;

With regard to the situation in the British Virgin Islands:

(b) Noted the information furnished by its representative that while the Territory's relationship with the administering Power is stable and not problematic, it can be enhanced. The representative also suggested that the Special Committee should set specific goals that are achievable on a case-by-case basis, in order to further advance the decolonization process in all the Territories;

With regard to the situation in Puerto Rico:

(c) Took note of the statement made by the representative of the Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico, which noted that since the adoption of resolution 748 (VIII), Puerto Rico has held four consultations on its political status, and that education under the direction of the United Nations should be a precondition to any exercise of self-determination;

(d) Noted the view, expressed by the representative of the Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico that "the deficiencies observed in past plebiscitary processes do not promote a true exercise of self-determination in accordance with international law and are manifestations of the administering Power's unwillingness to guarantee the Puerto Rican people access to the right of self-determination. The recognition of the people of Puerto Rico as a nation should be the starting point of any consultation. To that end, all necessary procedural steps should be taken to ensure that the future political status of Puerto Rico is chosen by its own people".

C. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, and assessment of the decolonization process, in the Pacific, including follow-up to the 2012 Pacific regional seminar

28. As their concluding observations, participating members:

With regard to the situation in Guam:

(a) Noted the statement made by the representative of the Governor presenting an update on Guam's efforts towards decolonization over the past year;

(b) Noted with appreciation the engagement of the Guam Commission on Decolonization in reinforcing the public awareness, finding creative ways to raise money for the education programme and completing the arduous task of formatting the three position papers of the Task Force so that they are easy to compare, contrast and understand by voters;

(c) Noted the proposal made that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs begin to supply information on the political status options;

(d) Expressed concern over the Federal mandates imposed by the United States Congress on Guam, which had no representation at the time these mandates were discussed and decided upon;

(e) Stressed again the need for continued close monitoring of the situation in the Territory, especially in relation to the funding needs of the public education programme on options for self-determination;

With regard to the situation in French Polynesia:

(f) Recognized the importance of the Territory's reinscription as a positive means providing a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory to self-determination;

(g) Requested France's cooperation in preparing the Territory for a free and genuine act of self-determination in accordance with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations and with United Nations principles and practices;

With regard to the situation in New Caledonia:

(h) Took note of the information presented to the Committee that preparations for the referendum on self-determination to be held between 2014 and 2018 are currently under way through the completion and review of the electoral rolls constituting the special electorates;

(i) Expressed concern over the problems encountered recently in the electoral review process, stemming from issues with the interpretation of the relevant texts, procedural flaws and lack of training;

(j) Noting the concern expressed by the expert from New Caledonia, reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 67/125, which inter alia stated "that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory";

(k) Reiterated the call to all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, within the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

(l) Stressed the need for continued close monitoring by the United Nations of the situation in the Territory in the final phase of the Nouméa Accord;

With regard to the situation in Tokelau:

(m) Expressed their appreciation for the statement made by the Ulu-o-Tokelau and the positive cooperation with the administering Power;

(n) Noted Tokelau's substantial degree of autonomy in the management of its own affairs and the view expressed by the Ulu on its resolve that, for the time being, self-determination considerations must take second place to pressing infrastructure and development needs;

(o) Encouraged the Territory and the administering Power to continue their close cooperation based on the Joint Commitment for Development plan 2011-2015, which would focus on a viable transportation arrangement, infrastructure development, human resources capacity and the strengthening of governance;

(p) Noted Tokelau's desire to be able to gain access to resources from international organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

D. Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends, and assessment of the decolonization process in the other regions, including follow-up to the 2012 Pacific regional seminar

29. As their concluding observations, participating members:

With regard to the situation in Western Sahara:

(a) Recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, and reaffirmed all relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 67/129, and supported Security Council resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012) and 2099 (2013) and the commitment of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to finding a solution to the question of Western Sahara in this context. They called on the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and the success of the negotiations. They reiterated the call made at previous regional seminars to the parties to continue such negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

With regard to the situation in Falkland Islands (Malvinas):

(b) Recalled the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on that question, which encouraged the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute, taking into account the interests of the population of the Islands, in accordance with the relevant

resolutions of the United Nations and requested the Secretary-General to continue his mission of good offices in compliance with the General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on that question;

With regard to the situation in Gibraltar:

(c) Noted that, owing to certain difficulties, there have not been meetings of the Forum for Dialogue and acknowledged that Spain has proposed a new regional cooperation framework in which different topics are addressed by the competent authorities.

E. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

30. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Encouraged the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and other organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, including participation at the forthcoming regional seminars on decolonization, upon the invitation of the Special Committee;

(b) Supported the role of United Nations regional commissions in enhancing and expanding the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their activities as associate members, in particular the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in accordance with their mandates and the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

F. Suggestions and proposals for the Third Decade

31. As their concluding observations, participating members:

(a) Reaffirmed that all peoples have the right to self-determination, and by virtue of that right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) Also reaffirmed that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) Reconfirmed that the United Nations had a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization, that the mandate of the Special Committee was a major programme of the Organization, and that United Nations support should be provided until all outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters have been resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(d) Reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories;

(e) Underlined the importance for the Special Committee to develop a proactive and focused approach, in fulfillment of the goal of decolonization vis-à-vis the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the United Nations list. The Special Committee needed to continue to approach each case with an open mind, to build on the available options and to bring about more dynamism in the decolonization process in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

(f) In view of the contribution of various regional organizations and regional arrangements to the capacity-building of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, advised that their effective participation in relevant regional organizations and regional arrangements needed to be facilitated, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanisms, along with the strengthening of concrete regional functional cooperation in various areas, such as governance, natural disaster preparedness, climate change and community empowerment;

(g) Also in view of the important role of regional organizations and regional arrangements in providing assistance to the relevant Non-Self-Governing Territories in support of the process of decolonization, suggested that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate and the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, strengthen its interactions and collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations;

(h) On the issue of public outreach to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on decolonization issues, advised the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, actively to engage and seek new and innovative ways to promote a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including to complement their ongoing efforts and ensure that the information provided effectively reaches the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(i) On the issue of education, suggested that the relevant territorial Governments and the administering Powers consider incorporating decolonization issues into the school curriculum of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) On the status-related and/or constitutional review exercises and the overall process of decolonization, stressed that such processes should be approached on a case-by-case basis and in a way that is respectful of human rights, transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory, with the involvement of the people concerned, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on decolonization and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(k) On the relationship with administering Powers, advised that interactions and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers should continue to be nurtured and strengthened through various possible platforms and means, including informal, working-level dialogue, and reaffirmed that all

administering Powers, particularly those which have not done so, needed to engage effectively with the Special Committee;

(l) In this connection, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing communication and cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, and urged the Special Committee to explore and seek possible concerted interaction in that regard, in formal and informal settings, with a view to make progress in decolonization during the Third Decade, on a case-by-case basis;

(m) In addition, underlined the crucial importance of enhancing relations between the Special Committee and civil society in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the information and education areas in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(n) In view of the valuable contribution of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminar, reiterated that the Special Committee, through the proper mechanism and with the assistance of the Secretariat, should continue to work towards full participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in future seminars. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations;

(o) Underlined the importance of enhancing relations between the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in sharing information about their territories, in this regard took note of the proposal made by a representative of the Non-Self-Governing Territory on the creation of a network among the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(p) In this connection, the Special Committee should continue to retool its methods of work and hone its capacity to conduct the seminars in an innovative manner to ensure a higher degree of United Nations-funded participation of its members in the regional seminars in order to allow the Committee to better hear the views of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization;

(q) On the role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, stressed that the relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies needed to engage with the work of the Special Committee and strengthen their efforts, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and through the appropriate mechanism, in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories; in that regard, the Special Committee needed to develop ways and means to encourage the participation of those agencies and bodies;

(r) Advised the Special Committee that it needed to develop ways and means through which it could make a better assessment, on a case-by-case basis, of the current stage of decolonization and self-determination in each Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, which could serve as a checklist of the progress achieved and things to be done, and, in that connection, invited the Special Committee to consider the suggestion to develop a specific project proposal such as the holding of an informal, working-level dialogue with the administering Powers;

(s) Reiterated that the Special Committee needed to continue working towards sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the involvement of the relevant territorial Government and administering Power, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and, in that regard, noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions;

(t) Reaffirmed that the process of decolonization was incomplete until all the outstanding decolonization issues and related follow-up matters were resolved in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

(u) Within the context of calls for a Third Decade, the Special Committee should continue to take stock of current challenges and opportunities for the decolonization process and draw up a pragmatic plan of action for the Third Decade with a view to advancing the decolonization process.

Appendix I

Message of the Secretary-General to the Caribbean regional seminar on implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: first quarter review of developments and trends

I am happy to greet the participants in this Caribbean regional seminar on decolonization.

I thank the Government and people of Ecuador for again hosting this important seminar, which is being held in the context of the United Nations Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

This year, you have gathered to review recent developments as well as trends that are likely to influence developments in the upcoming period.

First and foremost, you will focus on the Special Committee's role in advancing the United Nations decolonization process.

Enhanced dialogue and communication among the Special Committee, the elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers are essential.

When I addressed the Special Committee in February, I suggested that it identify possibilities for change and promote priorities for decolonization.

Your gathering in Quito is designed to facilitate informal exchanges and brainstorming to help the Committee to accomplish this important task at its substantive session less than a fortnight away.

I encourage you to use this seminar to show how statements of principle can be transferred into action. Let us build on the many successes of decolonization. Let us also retool and rejuvenate our methods of work and become true "enablers" of the decolonization process.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive seminar.

Appendix II

List of Participants

Members of the Special Committee	
Ecuador (Chair)	Diego Morejón[a] Helena Yánez Alexandra Haro José Eduardo Proaño[a]
Chile	José Antonio Cousiño
China	Zhang Tao
Cuba	Oscar León González[a]
Fiji	Namita Khatri[a]
Russian Federation	Anna M. Evstigneeva[a]
Sierra Leone	Franklyn Brima Fawundu[a]
United Republic of Tanzania	Maura Mwingira[a]
States Members of the United Nations	
Algeria	Idris Latreche
Argentina	Gerardo Díaz Bartolome Daniela Beatriz Jaite
Brazil	Cristina Vieira Machado Alexandre
Mexico	Bárbara Magaña
Morocco	Abderrahman Leibek Khaddad El Moussaoui
Peru	Elmo Vargas Chacon
Spain	Francisca M. Pedrós-Carretero
Administering Powers	
New Zealand (observer)	Peter Wright
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (observer)	Joanne Neenan
United States of America (observer)	William Mozdzierz
Specialized agencies	
United Nations Development Programme	Diego Zorrilla

[a] Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories	
British Virgin Islands	Kedrick D. Pickering
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]	Michael Victor Summers
Gibraltar	Joseph J. Bossano Albert A. Poggio
Guam	Edward A. Alvarez
Tokelau	Salesio Lui Jovilisi V. Suveinakama
Turks and Caicos	Sean Astwood
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari
Non-governmental organizations	
Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Wilma E. Reveron-Collazo
Nasion Chamoru/The Chamorro	Michael Lujan Bevacqua
Information Activists and Famoksaiyan (Guam)	

Experts

Alejandro Betts (Argentina)

Sergei Cherniavsky (Ukraine)

Peter Clegg (United Kingdom)

Richard Ariihau Tuheiava (French Polynesia)

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Ecuador

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 28 to 30 May 2013, in Quito, to consider the challenges and opportunities in the process of decolonization in today's world,

Having heard an important statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of Ecuador,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Ecuador for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Ecuador.

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